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4 April 1956

Assistant Director for Research and Reports
THRU : Chief, Economic Research
Chief, Materials Division

Report for Month of March 1956

I. Accomplishments

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A. [REDACTED] Chief, M/CH, has put in a substantial amount of time working on the [REDACTED] as Chairman of Subcommittees on the Production and Use of Mineral Fertilizers and Insecticides and on Plastics. He was also named technical consultant to the IAC Standing Committee for the fertilizer [REDACTED] of M/AG served as Secretary of the first named subcommittee.

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B. [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] attended two meetings of the IAC Standing Committee on Delegations to discuss details of the proposed US-USSR exchange delegations on electric power. Two memoranda were prepared for the use of the Standing Committee. [REDACTED] was appointed technical consultant to the Standing Committee for this exchange.

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C. The Division Chief, Branch Chiefs and other senior members of the Division, attended two program planning and orientation meetings at another agency.

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D. [REDACTED] of M/AG gave a talk at the Strategic Intelligence School on 21 March.

E. The Agricultural Subcommittee of the EIC met on 29 March. The major problem under consideration was the State Department's proposed project on Soviet agriculture. The Subcommittee approved the research assignments proposed by the Secretary and instructed the Secretary to transmit this plan to the EIC for approval.

F. A memorandum was prepared for Ch/E and the DD/I on the expansion of the ferrous metallurgical industry in the eastern USSR provided for in the Sixth Five Year Plan. The memorandum discussed the resources of iron ore and coking coal to be exploited in support of this expansion.

G. A memorandum was prepared for the Ch/E and the DD/I analyzing the Sixth Five Year Plan provision for the establishment of facilities with an annual production capacity of 84 million tons of iron ore.

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SUBJECT: Report for Month of March 1956

II. Administration

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A. [REDACTED] reported for duty with M/CH on 29 March 1956.

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B. [REDACTED] of M/P transferred at the end of March to another CIA component on indefinite loan.

III. Problems

A. In recent months there have been steadily increasing demands on the Petroleum Branch to answer questions and fulfill requirements involving the free world petroleum industry. The Petroleum Branch does not have an assigned responsibility for petroleum intelligence in the free world. Nevertheless, the Branch has attempted to meet the demands laid upon it, and will continue to do so. However, a two-fold problem is presented as follows:

1. The Petroleum Branch lacks adequate authority to provide petroleum intelligence on the free world.

2. The Petroleum Branch lacks the capabilities to provide prompt free world petroleum intelligence.

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